



## **MD FHFH Report for 2005-2006**

### **General Program Results**

- Total # of deer donated and processed: 2,457
- Total # of meals provided to food banks and feeding programs: over 490,000
- Total # of participating butchers: 35 + 1 drop-off location in Montgomery County

### **Program Notes & Comments**

Four new meat processors joined the FHFH program for the 2005 hunting season. In Montgomery County a cold box drop-off location was added through a partnership with the Montgomery County Department of Economic Development.

All meat processing facilities participating with FHFH are inspected for cleanliness, proper equipment and proper meat handling procedures by local, state or federal officials. Most hunters in Maryland are now within a 30 minute drive of an FHFH participating processor or drop-off location. No processors meeting the licensing and inspection requirements—or willing to undergo the needed inspection required by FHFH policy and by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH)—have been found in the counties without participating processors.

FHFH supplies meat to the Maryland Food Bank in Baltimore along with six regional food banks in other parts of the state. Meat is also supplied to smaller feeding programs in the local areas around each butcher shop. Many of the FHFH processors provide meat to agencies in their county along with those in neighboring counties.

### **Comments on the Future Outlook for FHFH**

The outlook for FHFH in Maryland is bright. Currently about 2.5% of the deer harvested by hunters in the state are donated to FHFH. Increased education and fundraising efforts should lead to the donation of additional deer. Funding remains the primary obstacle to program growth as many processing locations can handle additional deer if the money is available to pay the processing invoices. In the coming year FHFH will expand its use of direct mail to communicate with new and existing contacts to encourage them to begin or renew their financial partnership with FHFH. Additional fundraising opportunities will also be explored with the help of a growing network of Local FHFH Chapter Coordinators across the state. **Please contact FHFH at 301-739-3000 or email [josh@fhfh.org](mailto:josh@fhfh.org) with any funding source suggestions or ideas.**